

TOWN OF AMHERST
TOWN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING, JAN 18, 2007

Present at meeting:

Barry Roberts, N. Leigh Dunlap, Jerry Jolly, Ira Bryck, Mark Parent, Jonathan Tucker, Leslie Arriola and Gloria Chang-Wade, Hwei-Ling Greeney, Jeffrey Blaustein, John Coull.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm. The new member joining TCRC, Jeffrey Blaustein., was introduced. The minutes of the previous meeting was accepted, with no modifications.

OLD BUSINESS

- Jonathan discussed his and Leslie's handout of 8 parking alternatives previously identified around downtown Amherst. Since more new businesses opened, e.g. the new cinema downtown, or have planned expansions or re-openings, Judie's and Pinocchio's respectively, the need for more parking will only increase. Since the town is affected by what UMass does, or plans to do, Hwei-Ling suggested that the TCRC consider involving the University in its deliberations and maybe even invite the Chancellor to a future meeting. Since TCRC was recently given the primary responsibility by the Select Board to address parking issues, this discussion will be continued at the next TCRC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Barry and Mark represented the TCRC at the December Select Board meeting and gave the Board a sense of the priorities of TCRC. The Board committed itself to being more responsive to the views of TCRC.
- The feeling of the TCRC members was that the Town Manager is working very hard to be responsive to everyone's concerns, his staff is committed to improving processes and it is expected that he will be attending the February TCRC meeting.
- Ira requested specific examples of present problems with the permit process, and Hwei-Ling suggested that the data be collected to establish a benchmark. Barry remarked that the major problem with the permit process was the lack of coordination among the groups involved in the process, e.g. Building, Health and Fire Dept. staff.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, February 15, 2007 at 5:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.

Minutes submitted by Gloria Chang-Wade